

REMARKS

Upon receipt of this response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to arrange a telephone interview concerning the inventive merits of this application.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for issuing the July 23, 2009 Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 25-46. However, upon review of the allowed claims the Applicant discovered a few inaccuracies in the allowed claims and further believes a few of the claims may be unnecessarily limited by the previously entered claim amendments. As such, the Applicant is filing a Request for Continued Examination of the above identified application, along with the appropriate official fees, so that the above requested claim amendments will be entered and considered by the Examiner.

The claims are amended to more clearly recite the subject matter believed to be inventive over known prior art, specifically the reference of Sefcik `596 (U.S. Patent No. 6,669,596) previously cited by the Examiner.

The Applicant notes that Sefcik `596 relates to a dual input clutch planetary transmission and includes two input friction clutches 18, 20, two planetary gear sets 22, 24 and five synchronizer clutches 26, 28, 30, 32, 34. As shown in Figs. 1 and 4 of Sefcik `596, the two input friction clutches 18, 20 are located in the power train 10, 210 adjacent the input end of the transmission 14. A pair of synchronizer clutches 26, 28 is axially located between the two input friction clutches 18, 20 and a first of the two planetary gear sets 22. The remainder of the synchronizer clutches 30, 32, 34 are axially located between the two planetary gear sets 22, 24.

According to Sefcik `596, a first input side (half) of each of the two input friction clutches 18, 20 is directly connected to a power input shaft 68. The other clutch side (half) of friction clutch 18 is connectable with the synchronizer clutch 26 and 30 while the other side (half) clutch of friction clutch 20 is connectable with the synchronizer clutch 28. In direct opposition to such disclosed arrangement of Sefcik `596, the presently claimed invention includes the distinct limitations of the first and the second frictional shifting elements (K1, K2) being placed axially between at least the second, the third, the fourth and the sixth shape-fit shifting elements (B to F) and the first, the second and the third planetary gear sets (P1 to P3).

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In addition, new independent claim 47 is entered in this case and this claim is very similar in scope to claim 25 and thus is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 25 is allowable.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is placed in a condition for allowance and action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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